

Washington, D.C - Today, the leadership of the **New Democrat Coalition**, led by **Congressman Joseph Crowley (NY-07)**

, Chair, and

Congressman Adam Smith (WA-9)

, Chair of the New Dem Trade Task Force, released the statement below, following the announcement of the Administration's intent to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement:

"The New Dems applaud the announcement by United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk, on behalf of the Obama Administration, that the United States intends to enter into negotiations aimed at joining and expanding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. With two-thirds of the world's population in the Asian Pacific region, participation in this agreement has the potential to open up new markets for American businesses, goods and workers at a time when economic growth and job creation is a priority for this Congress and the Administration. The agreement could serve as a cornerstone of economic integration in the Asia-Pacific.

"We are dedicated to helping the Administration and House Leadership enact a comprehensive trade agenda, beginning with U.S. participation in the TPP Agreement negotiations, that fosters economic growth, supports the competitiveness of American businesses and creates employment opportunities for American workers."

Statement supported by the New Democrat Coalition Leadership, led by Chair Representative Joseph Crowley (NY-07), and Vice-Chairs Representative Melissa Bean (IL-08), Representative Ron Kind (WI-03), Representative Allyson Schwartz (PA-13), and Representative Adam Smith (WA-09), Chair of the New Dem Trade Task Force.

The New Democrat Coalition is a diverse Coalition of 68 members of the U.S. House of Representatives who are dedicated to the prosperity and security of American families and business. Founded in 1997, the NDC provides Members of Congress with the opportunity to advance a common sense policy agenda focused on empowering the U.S. to grow economically and maintain a vibrant job market, preserving the U.S. standing as the world's leader in innovation and technological advancement, and strengthening our economic and national security. For more information, visit the New Dems website at <http://ndc.crowley.house.gov>.

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